

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An information device having means for supplying
2 power to a plurality of its components, the information
3 device characterized by comprising:
4 access monitoring means for monitoring information on
5 access to a predetermined single one or a number of said
6 components, and for detecting peak-power generating
7 condition and peak-power terminating condition for the
8 components; and
9 power-mode changing means for switching mode of power,
10 to the predetermined single one or number of said
11 components, from a normal-power mode to a power-saving mode
12 according to detected information from said access
13 monitoring means on said peak-power generating condition,
14 and for switching the power mode from said power-saving mode
15 to said normal-power mode according to detected information
16 from said access monitoring means on said peak-power
17 terminating condition.
- 1 2. An information device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said predetermined single one or a number of said
3 components is an information storage device, said access
4 monitoring means is configured for:

5 detecting issuance of read/write status indicating
6 occurrence of spin-up in the information storage device as
7 the peak-power generating condition; and
8 detecting issuance of read/write end status as the
9 peak-power terminating condition.

1 3. An information device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said predetermined single one or a number of said
3 components is an information storage device, and other of
4 said components are a processor and a liquid-crystal panel
5 having a back light, said power-mode changing means is
6 configured for:

7 switching said processor and said liquid crystal panel
8 from the normal-power mode to the power-saving mode,
9 according to detection, by said access monitoring means, of
10 the peak-power generating condition in said information
11 storage device; and

12 switching said processor and said liquid crystal panel
13 from the power-saving mode to the normal-power mode
14 according to detection, by said access monitoring means, of
15 the peak-power terminating condition.

1 4. An information device as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein said predetermined single one or a number of said
3 components is a processor characterized in that said access
4 monitoring means is configured for:

5 finding use rate for the processor;

6 detecting as the peak-power generating condition the
7 use rate surpassing a set value; and
8 detecting as the peak-power terminating condition the
9 use rate dropping below a set value.

1 5. A power-saving-mode switching method for an
2 information device having a plurality of components, the
3 power-saving-mode switching method characterized by
4 including the steps of:

5 monitoring information on access to a predetermined
6 single one or a number of said components;

7 detecting peak-power generating condition and peak-
8 power terminating condition for the predetermined single one
9 or number of said components according to the access
10 information;

11 switching mode of power to other of said components
12 from a normal-power mode to a power-saving mode according to
13 detection of the peak-power generating condition; and

14 switching the power mode from the power-saving mode to
15 the normal-power mode according to subsequent detection of
16 peak-power terminating condition.

1 6. A power-saving-mode switching method as set forth in
2 claim 5, for an information device including an information
3 storage device and a processor, the power-saving-mode
4 switching method characterized by further including the
5 steps of:

6 detecting issuance of read/write status indicating
7 occurrence of spin-up in said information storage device as
8 the peak-power generating condition, and switching said
9 processor from the normal-power mode to the power-saving
10 mode; and

11 detecting subsequent issuance of read/write end status
12 as the peak-power terminating condition, and switching said
13 processor from the power-saving mode to the normal-power
14 mode.

1 7. An information device as set forth in claim 5,
2 wherein said predetermined single one or a number of said
3 components is an information storage device, and other of
4 said components are a processor and a liquid-crystal panel
5 having a back light, characterized by further including the
6 steps of:

7 switching said processor and said liquid-crystal panel
8 from the normal-power mode to the power-saving mode,
9 according to detection of the peak-power generating
10 condition in said information storage device; and

11 switching said processor and said liquid crystal panel
12 from the power-saving mode to the normal-power mode
13 according to subsequent detection of the peak-power
14 terminating condition.

1 8. A recording medium on which is stored a power-
2 saving-mode switching program for an information device

3 having a plurality of components, the power-saving-mode
4 switching program stored on the recording medium
5 characterized by including:
6 a step of monitoring information on access to a
7 predetermined single one or a number of said components;
8 a step of detecting peak-power generating condition and
9 peak-power terminating condition for the predetermined
10 single one or number of said components according to the
11 access information;
12 a step of switching mode of power to other of said
13 components from a normal-power mode to a power-saving mode
14 according to detection of the peak-power generating
15 condition; and
16 a step of switching the power mode from the power-
17 saving mode to the normal-power mode according to subsequent
18 detection of peak-power terminating condition.

1 9. A recording medium on which is stored a power-
2 saving-mode switching program as set forth in claim 8, for
3 an information device including an information storage
4 device and a processor, the power-saving-mode switching
5 program stored on the recording medium characterized by
6 further including:
7 a step of detecting issuance of read/write status
8 indicating occurrence of spin-up in said information storage
9 device as the peak-power generating condition, and switching

10 said processor from the normal-power mode to the power-
11 saving mode; and
12 a step of detecting subsequent issuance of read/write
13 end status as the peak-power terminating condition, and
14 switching said processor from the power-saving mode to the
15 normal-power mode.